



The Grange

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 4

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EVENTS

Please remember that THE STAFF TRAINING SESSION for February will have as its speaker Greg Baeker, newly appointed Director of the Ontario Museum Association. Greg was involved with THE GRANGE as an historic interpreter, and he will discuss INTERPRETING THE HOUSE - HISTORICALLY AND DECORATIVELY. Dates are Wednesday, February 3 at 7.00 p.m. and Thursday, February 4 at 10 a.m.

Helen Ignatieff will speak at THE STAFF TRAINING SESSION on March 3 and 4. Her topic will be FURNITURE HERE AND ABROAD. Mrs. Ignatieff is lecturer and research associate with the Royal Ontario Museum, and was formerly assistant curator of the Canadiana Gallery. As usual the times are Wednesday at 7.00 p.m. and Thursday at 10 a.m. We hope that everyone will be able to come in both February and March to what promise to be two very interesting lectures.

There is to be a CURATORIAL TOUR in the ART GALLERY OF ONTARIO at 2.00 p.m. on February 2. The tour will be of the Italian Collection, and it is open to all volunteers. Please ask at Information Desk where one should assemble.

COMMITTEES

THE GRANGE LIBRARY is now open on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 12 to 4 p.m. Ruth Vanderlip is in charge on Tuesdays, Joan Stoicheff on Thursdays and Mary Ashe on Fridays. All Grange volunteers are eligible to use the library, and we hope that everyone will take advantage of this opportunity. Books cannot be removed from the library.

The Collection is mainly based on the Decorative Arts and on Canadian History. In the Decorative Arts section can be found information on furniture, glassware, silverware, china, food, decorating etc. In the Canadian History area are many books pertaining to the history of Early Canada and more specifically that of Early Toronto. Both of these areas are directly concerned with The Grange and its 1835 period. There is also a Periodical Collection including such titles as the Canadian Collector, The York Pioneer and Country Life.

The Librarians are here to help anyone select books for reference and research projects. We will also do our best to try to answer any questions pertaining to The Grange, its history etc. Written questions may be left in the Library with your name, so that we can get back to you. A selection of the questions and answers will appear in the NEWS-LETTER each month. A recent question was "Why are there water glasses on the dining-room table? The answer is in the MISCELLANEOUS section.

DAY CAPTAINS

All Day Captains are asked to meet at THE GRANGE Wednesday, February 3 at 6 p.m. prior to the first Staff Training Session.

On Tuesday, January 26, Vera Coombs group made marmelade. Audrey Walker was the chief cook of the day. She was ably assisted by Charlie, who turns out to be no mean cook himself. The rest of the Tuesday Volunteers also lent a hand. Some of the preparations were done ahead by Audrey and then it was cooked on the Van Norland stove in the Preparatory Kitchen.

Beverley Suttons Friday group had as their December project a field trip to MacKenzie House, where they were celebrating a Victorian Christmas. Amongst many decorations they had a Kissing Bough and Twelfth Day cake. At the end of the tour the group drove back to begin their Friday shift.

MISCELLANEOUS

There seems to be a problem with unscheduled tours appearing at The Grange doors. If a tour appears without an appointment please do the following:

Tell them that only a small number of their members can come through at a time (10-12). The rest are asked to tour other parts of the Gallery, coming back at half-hour intervals until they are all through. Each group should only stay in the House for half an hour.

The reason for this decision is that unscheduled tours disrupt the viewing of the public already in the House, thus putting a strain on the facilities.

Question - Why are there water glasses on the dining-room table?

Answer - Miss Leslie in her book "The House Book: or, a Manual of Domestic Economy for Town and Country", published in 1844, writes: It is now usual at many tables to have a small water-bottle (holding about a pint) placed by the side of every plate, that each person may pour out water for herself. Nevertheless, there should always be water-pitchers on the side-table to replenish the bottles when necessary, whether large ones or small ones are used on the table.

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In summer, when filling the pitchers, put two or three lumps of ice into each.

There is also the possibility that the "water glasses" were used at times to serve beer or cider.

Hilary Abrahamson in her book "Victorians at Table - Dining Traditions in Nineteenth-Century Ontario", on page 27, writes: Put a glass for water, and as many wine-glasses as are necessary at each plate. Fill the water-glass just before the dinner is announced, unless caraffes are used. These are kept on the table all the time, well filled with water, one caraffe being sufficient for two or three persons.

Mr. Fred Holmes called with some information about the early telephone.

First phone installed in December 1887. No. 1514 listing for Prof. Goldwin Smith at The Grange or on Grange Road. There were no numbered addresses. Change of number May 1900 to 8477, also listed for Prof. Goldwin Smith now at 26 Grange Road. Goldwin Smith seems to have lost interest as listing was changed in 1907 to Mrs. John Boulton.

For further information Mr. Holmes can be reached at 535-5729.
